



# BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation  
scheduled for the House floor

16 May 2006

Week of 15 May 2006

## SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***To Allow the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to Enter Into a Lease or Other Temporary Conveyance of Water Rights Recognized Under the Fort Peck-Montana Compact for the Purpose of Meeting the Water Needs of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Incorporated, and for Other Purposes*** (H.R. 2978). 

This bill allows the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana to enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights with the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association Inc. Because the association's water system is interconnected with that of the tribes, such an agreement is necessary for the association to meet its water needs in accordance with the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000. H.R. 2978 has no significant effect on the federal budget.

2) ***Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005*** (H.R. 586). 

This bill amends existing law – Public Law 91-383 – by directing the Secretary of the Interior to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on parts of National Park System lands with historical traditions of such uses. The bill amends other laws regarding other public lands. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has not prepared an official cost estimate for this measure, but in 2004 CBO determined that an identical bill reported in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress (H.R. 2699) would not have affected direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or revenue.

3) ***To Redesignate the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia as the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge*** (H.R. 3682). 

This bill redesignates the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia as the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge. It does not affect direct spending or revenue.

4) ***Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2005*** (S. 1869). 

This measure authorizes the appropriation of \$2 million, for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for mapping the coastal barrier resources system. The bill also authorizes annual appropriations of \$500,000 for 2006 and 2007 to complete an existing pilot project on digital mapping and \$1 million annually through 2010 to create digital versions of all maps of the coastal barrier system. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

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5) ***Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006*** (H.R. 518).   
This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$5 million in fiscal year 2006, and \$31 million over the 2006-10 period, for activities related to certain species of migratory birds. The Secretary of the Interior would use the funding primarily to help finance research and conservation programs in North and South America. For fiscal year 2006, the Congress has already provided \$4 million for such activities; therefore, the net increase in authorizations is \$1 million in fiscal year 2006 and \$27 million over the 2006-10 period. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

6) ***James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2005*** (S. 1165).   
This bill expands the boundary of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in Hawaii, which was established administratively in 1976, to include a total of about 1,100 acres. It authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land within the new boundary, subject to appropriations. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

7) ***Recognizing the Cultural and Educational Contributions of American Ballet Theatre Throughout Its 65 Years of Service as "America's National Ballet Company"*** (H.Res. 751).   
This resolution has no budget implications.

8) ***Calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to Immediately Establish a Full, Independent, Public Judicial Inquiry Into the Murder of Northern Ireland Defense Attorney Pat Finucane, as Recommended by International Judge Peter Cory as Part of the Weston Park Agreement and a Way Forward for the Northern Ireland Peace Process*** (H.Res. 740).   
This resolution has no budget implications.

9) ***Condemning in the Strongest Terms the Terrorist Attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt, on April 24 and 26, 2006*** (H.Res. 795).   
This resolution has no budget implications.

10) ***Condemning the Murder of American Journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the Murders of Other Members of the Media in the Russian Federation*** (H.Res. 499).   
This resolution has no budget implications.

#### LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

**Bill:** ***Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act*** (H.R. 4200).   
**Committee:** Agriculture, Resources  
**Summary:** This bill establishes new procedures for responding to catastrophic events causing damage to certain Federal land. The legislation directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to establish research protocols for assessing methods of restoring Federal land following such events and specifies expedited procedures for implementing projects to rehabilitate that land, which could include timber harvests.  
**Cost:** This bill does not affect direct spending in fiscal year 2006. It increases outlays by \$5 million in fiscal year 2007, and reduces outlays by \$18 million over the 2006-10 period. The bill first provides new budget authority [BA] in fiscal year 2008: \$4 million in offsetting receipts – a reduction in BA – from timber sales receipts (-\$28 million in BA over 2008-10); \$3 million in new BA for the spending of timber sales receipts (\$21 million over 2008-10); and \$1 million in BA for payments to States (\$7 million over 2008-10). The net effect on BA is zero in each year.

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**Budget Act:** This bill technically violates section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act, which prohibits consideration of a measure that first provides new budget authority in a fiscal year for which a budget resolution has not yet been adopted. It is important to note, however, that over the 5-year period 2006-10, this bill reduces outlays by \$18 million and has no net effect on budget authority.

**Bill:** *Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007* (H.Con.Res. 376). 

**Committee:** Budget

**Summary:** As reported by the Budget Committee, the fiscal year 2007 budget resolution sets forth the congressional budget for the Federal government for fiscal year 2007, and sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008-11. It limits overall fiscal year 2007 appropriations to \$873 billion, and provides reconciliation instructions to various authorizing committees to make changes to programs in their respective jurisdictions to reduce the deficit. The resolution also accommodates \$228 billion of tax relief (compared with current law projections) to prevent automatic tax increases, and establishes a reserve fund for responding to natural disasters.

The resolution is subject to modifications through a manager's amendment, should such an amendment be made in order.

**Cost:** Although the budget sets limits on overall appropriations, increases in direct spending, and changes in revenue, it does not directly affect appropriations, direct spending, or revenue.

**Budget Act:** This resolution does not violate any provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

**[Additional legislation for the week will be addressed in a subsequent *Budget Week Update*.]**

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**Prepared by ..... The Committee on the Budget**